



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
North Central Division

GREAT LAKES LEVELS

UPDATE, NO. 10

2 May 1986

All of the Great Lakes continue to be dangerously high and are continuing their seasonal rises. Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair have again set new monthly record high levels in April. For Lakes Superior and St. Clair, this is the eighth straight month that record highs have been set and for Lakes Michigan-Huron, it is the seventh. The Lake Erie level for April was slightly less than its record monthly high for the first time since October 1985. The Lake Ontario level also continues to be high.

The attached bulletin shows that all the Great Lakes are predicted to remain extremely high through October, 1986. Riparian property owners should be alert to take necessary precautions.

The International Joint Commission (IJC) is continuing to direct the outflows for the two Great Lakes that are regulated. Lake Superior is at its Regulation Plan 1977 outflow setting. Lake Ontario is being regulated under Criterion (k) of the Commission's Orders of Approval, which requires that it be regulated so as to provide all possible relief to riparians upstream and downstream of the St. Lawrence River control structures. Except for a few days when it was necessary to provide flooding relief to the Montreal area during the spring freshet on the Ottawa River, the Lake Ontario outflows in April were greater than Plan 1958-D flows. Plan 1958-D is the operating plan used under normal conditions. On 23 April, the outflow was increased to 340,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), which is greater than the 336,000 cfs capacity of the Moses-Saunders Powerhouses. Therefore, the excess water is being spilled over the Long Sault Dam. The St. Lawrence River flow is about one-third greater than normal for this time of year. Shipping has been warned of the high velocities and strong crosscurrents in the river.

The Corps of Engineers has authority under Public Law 84-99 to carry out preventive work prior to a flood threat to life and improved property. This program, known as Advance Measures, is applicable to areas threatened with inundation. There is no similar authority applicable to shore erosion threats. In Michigan, construction of five approved Advance Measures projects is now substantially complete; Luna Pier, Estral Beach, Detroit Beach in Frenchtown Township, and Labo Island and Milleman in Brownstown Township. A sixth project, the Grodi Road area in Erie Township, has been approved but construction has not yet been started. Three other projects are under consideration. In Ohio, six projects have been approved. The Bayview project is the only one under construction. The Eastlake and Oregon projects are being finalized for construction. The Reno Beach/Howard Farms, Whites Landing, and Crystal Rock projects are being held in abeyance pending resolution of local sponsorship. Only one other project is under consideration. All other potential projects in both states either are ineligible or have been declined by the communities. Investigation of potential Advance Measures continues in New York on Lakes Erie and Ontario as the result of a request from Governor Cuomo.

The Corps is also authorized to assist local communities in responding to actual flooding situations. This includes providing technical assistance, supplies and equipment and contracting, as necessary, to supplement maximum state and local efforts. Requests for assistance should be directed through the local and state disaster assistance agencies.

For Great Lakes basin technical assistance or information, please contact one of the following Corps of Engineers District Offices:

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| For New York, Penn. and Ohio Colonel Daniel R. Clark Commander, Buffalo District 1776 Niagara Street Buffalo, NY 14207-3199 (716) 876-5454 - Ext. 2201 | For Mich., Minn. and Wisc. Colonel Robert F. Harris Commander, Detroit District Post Office Box 1027 Detroit, MI 48231-1027 (313) 226-6440 or 226-6441 | For Ill. and Indiana Lieutenant Col. Frank R. Finch Commander, Chicago District 219 South Dearborn (6th Floor) Chicago, IL 60604-1797 (312) 353-6400 |
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The "Help Yourself" brochure which contains information on shoreland damage causes and some protective measures is available from the District Offices listed above or from this office:


North Central Division
536 S. Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60605-1592
(312) 353-6364

The Corps is additionally charged with regulating work and structures in the waters of the United States. Any work done along the Great Lakes shoreline requires a Corps permit as well as a State permit. There are numerous types of Corps authorizations which cover shore protection work. Shortened procedures for issuing the required authorizations as quickly as possible have been developed. Applicants for permits in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio should contact the Buffalo District by Phone Number (716) 876-5454 Ext. 2313; in Michigan and Indiana, the Detroit District by Phone Number (313) 226-2432; in Illinois, the Chicago District by Phone Number (312) 353-6428; and in Wisconsin and Minnesota, contact the St. Paul District by Phone Number (612) 725-5819.

Near shore wave warnings are provided by various National Weather Service Offices for certain portions of the Great Lakes. Information can normally be heard on the National Weather Service's local weather radio broadcasts noted below:

| <u>LAKE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>VHF/FM FREQ.</u> | <u>LAKE</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>VHF/FM FREQ.</u> |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Superior | Duluth, MN | 162.550 MHz | Huron | Alpena, MI | 162.550 MHz |
| Superior | Houghton, MI | 162.400 MHz | St. Clair | Detroit, MI | 162.550 MHz |
| Superior | Marquette, MI | 162.550 MHz | Erie | Toledo, OH | 162.550 MHz |
| Superior | Sault Ste. Marie, MI | 162.550 MHz | Erie | Sandusky, OH | 162.400 MHz |
| Michigan | Green Bay, WI | 162.550 MHz | Erie | Cleveland, OH | 162.550 MHz |
| Michigan | Milwaukee, WI | 162.400 MHz | Erie | Erie, PA | 162.400 MHz |
| Michigan | Chicago, IL | 162.550 MHz | Erie | Buffalo, NY | 162.550 MHz |
| Michigan | Grand Rapids, MI | 162.550 MHz | Ontario | Rochester, NY | 162.400 MHz |
| Michigan | Traverse City, MI | 162.400 MHz | | | |

I will continue to issue these updates in an effort to keep you informed of the lake levels and the actions being taken to help alleviate the situation. These updates will accompany the monthly bulletin until the lakes return to safe levels.


JOSEPH PRATT
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding